

This unique church also stands as an extraordinary symbol that emphasizes the impressive 275 years that the Augustus' ministry has served its community in Pennsylvania. The Augustus Lutheran Church has always had a close and reciprocal relationship with its community. Prior to the construction of the Church, the Augustus congregation built the first schoolhouse in Providence Township, Pennsylvania, where Muhlenberg served as one of the teachers. Consequently, in 1743 when the congregation decided to build a church, men in the community donated their labor and materials by hauling stone and timber, while the women and children split and shaved shingles for the roof. The official dedication ceremony took place on October 6, 1745 when a dedicatory stone was placed in the wall over the main entrance. In 1751, the gallery was erected to house the newly purchased pipe organ that was brought from Europe. This pipe organ was unique in that it was one of first pipe organs in any country church in America.

As the congregation grew throughout the next one hundred years, so did the need for a new church that could adequately accommodate its members. In 1852, a new cornerstone was laid and a new brick church was constructed. Throughout the following years, extensive reconstruction was done on the new church. Sunday school facilities were created, the pulpit was refurbished, and the pipe organ was electrified and enlarged by the addition of an echo organ chamber and chimes. In 1960, a new parish house was added and in 1987, new stained glass windows were added. Today, the Augustus Lutheran Congregation has grown substantially to include 480 families with 1,000 baptized members.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Augustus Lutheran Church for its rich and honored history and its exemplary contributions to the religious and community life of the Trappe area for the past 275 years.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF "LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL!"

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.J. Res. 66, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "Lights On Afterschool." Lights On Afterschool is a national celebration of after school programs and the dedicated people who keep them going.

After school programs play an important role in the lives of millions of school children throughout the United States. These programs provide fun and educational activities that help develop the social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills of children, while giving them a safe and enriching alternative to the streets.

Students in my home town of Chicago benefit from hundreds of exciting after school options. Many of these are coordinated through After School Matters, a non-profit organization which partners with the City of Chicago, the Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Park

District, the Chicago Public Library, and the Chicago Department of Children and Youth Services to create a network of after school opportunities for teens in underserved communities.

Through After School Matters, Chicago teens take part in engaging activities that provide skills that translate to the workplace. After School Matters helps kids build positive relationships with adults and peers, providing them with access to educational and career opportunities in their neighborhoods and the city.

Programs such as After School Matters are making a difference in communities throughout the United States. These programs deserve our support, and I urge my colleagues to make after school programs a priority as we move through the budget process.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to recognize the work of these dedicated people who help provide quality after school opportunities for children. On October 20th, I urge my colleagues to participate in "Lights On Afterschool" and honor the after school programs which serve their communities.

CONGRATULATING SHERIFF MARK HACKEL

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Sheriff Mark Hackel, who is the recipient of the 2005 Alexander Macomb Man of the Year Award from the March of Dimes.

Mark Hackel has dedicated his professional life to serving and protecting Macomb County. He began his career in 1981 as a dispatcher with the Macomb County Sheriff's Department and since then he has held every rank within the Department. Through hard work and determination, Mark was elected as Macomb County Sheriff in November of 2000.

Sheriff Hackel graduated from Sterling Heights High School in 1980. He received an Associate Degree from Macomb Community College in 1983, a Bachelor of Art Degree in Criminal Justice from Wayne State University in 1991, and a Master Degree in Public Administration from Central Michigan University in 1996.

To ensure excellence professionally, Sheriff Hackel has attended in 1994 the F.B.I. National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, and the United States Secret Service Dignitary Protection School in Washington D.C. He also has international training which includes Project Harmony Educational Exchange in Lviv, Ukraine and the Police Instructor Exchange Program in London, England.

In addition to being the Sheriff of the third largest county in Michigan, Sheriff Hackel serves his community in a number of other important capacities. He teaches young adults at Macomb Community College, is a Police Academy Instructor and an Advanced Police Training Instructor at the Macomb Criminal Justice Training Center.

Sheriff Hackel also participates in many community based organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving, American Cancer Society, and Traffic Safety Association of

Macomb. He has been a mentor through Winning Futures Mentoring Program and serves as a Fitness Council Advisory Board Member for Creating a Healthier Macomb.

Sheriff Hackel understands that many factors influence the law enforcement environment he is elected to lead and he seeks to bring about a better and safer community through all of his many endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I have been privileged to work with Sheriff Mark Hackel and to see first hand his many effective endeavors. I ask my colleagues to join me recognizing Sheriff Mark Hackel for his commitment to excellence, and his professional and personal devotion to his community.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF THE MOHAMMAD ATAYA PARK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Ataya family for their collective vision, generosity and concern for the people of Twinsburg, especially the children, for donating their personal property and transforming it into a public park for residents of all ages to enjoy. Dr. Khalid Ataya, his wife, Dr. Alfida Ataya, and their three children, Dana, Samy and Ramsey, have dedicated the park in honor of Dr. Ataya's father, Mohammad Ataya.

Mohammad Ataya worked diligently to provide a safe and secure home for his family in America, and has also ensured that the cultural bridge connecting the Ataya family—from Cleveland to Lebanon—remains viable and strong. Mr. Ataya continues to be the center of his family, a living legacy defined by a steadfast dedication to his wife, nine children, and his many grandchildren.

In a clearing surrounded by trees, playground equipment, park benches and picnic tables spring from the green grass at Mohammad Ataya Park, located on Cambridge Street in Twinsburg. Plans are already in place to expand the playground and picnic area at the park—preserving a natural space where a sense of renewal is possible and where family unity abounds.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Dr. Khalid and Alfida Ataya, for their vision and generosity in entrusting their land to the Township of Twinsburg for use as a public park, in honor of Dr. Ataya's father, Mohammad Ataya. Mohammad Ataya Park will flourish as a vital preservation of green space and will exist as a peaceful and joyous haven, accessible to all citizens, today and for generations to come. As founding members of the Arab American Community Center for Economic and Social Services (AACCESS), Dr. Khalid and Dr. Alfida Ataya continue to embrace an energetic spirit and a dedication focused on service to others, and their efforts and volunteerism continue to enhance our entire community.